(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (d) For the welfare and development of scheduled casets there are 14 schemes, out of which 10 are centrally sponsored schemes and 4 are central sector schemes. The centrally sponsored schemes include 1) Assistance to Scheduled Castes Development Corportation, 2) Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers, 3) Post matric scholarship, 4) Pre-matric scholarships, 5) Book banks, 6) Girls Hostel, 7) Boys Hostel, 8) Coaching and Allied Scheme, 9) Upgradation of Merit and 10) PCR/Atrocities. The central sector schemes include 1) Special Central Assistance to SCP, 2) National Schedueld Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation, 3) Aid to voluntary organisations (NGOs) and Research and Training.

Under the Centrally Sponsorec Schemes matching assistance has to be provided by the State. The Central Sector Schemes are fully funded from the Central budget.

In respect of central assistance to the National Scheduled Castes and Schedued Tribes Finance and Development" Corporation (NSFDC), there is no earmarking of funds to the States. The NSFDC releases the sums through the State channelising agencies based on the proposals received from them. Like-wise, in respect of assistance to volutary organisations (NGOs), releases are not made State-wise but directly to NGOs. In respect of the Scheme of Research tend Training, no direct releases -are being made to the States. Under this scheme grant-in-aid is given to research organisation and universities.

Statements indicating release, utilisation and non-utilisation in respect of the 10 Centrally Sponsored Schemes and one central sector scheme (SCA to SCP) for the last 3 years are given in Annexures I to XI [See Appendix 178, Annexure NO. 62]. The reasons for non-utilisation include 1) non-receipt of complete propsoals from States and inadequate matching shares.

Suggestion of NGOs for Institutional Changes

*425 SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:
SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have made detailed suggestions for the consideration of Government for institutional changes to ensure a better deal for the poor, women, deprived sections of the society and backward States; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A few NGOs has made certain suggestions regarding revision of the schemes, enhancement of financial provisions in the scheme, change in the funding pattern, upgradation of the existing software and hardware and setting up of implementation committee consisting of their representatives of voluntary organisations etc. These suggestions relate to various grant-in-aid schemes of the Ministry and are under Examination. At the time of final revision of the scheme, these suggestions will be taken into consideration and wherever possible will be incorporated for the better deal of the deprived groups.

Amendment to the Industrial Disputes Ac

*426. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to bring comprehensive

amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the recommendations of the Ramanujam Committee and subsequent deliberations in various fora, the Government has formulated certain draft proposls for comprehensive amendment to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. These proposals, inter-alia, include promoting Dipartism in Industrial Disputes Resolution to avoid third party intervention, providing higher lay off and retrenchment compensation, amendments in the definition of "appropriate Government", "Workman" and "industry", reforming the process of labour adjudication etc. These draft proposals arc being placed before the Standing Labour Committee on its 33rd Session scheduled to be held on 13th Sept. 19%.

Survey of Mentally Retarded and Physically Handicapped

*428. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agency in the country has conducted a survey regarding the number of mentally retarded and physically handicapped persons in the country;

(b) if so, when such a survey was ' undertaken and by whom;

(c) whether there is an increase or decrease in the number from previous survey undertaken, if any; and

(d) what steps Government are contemplating to reduce the number?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (c) A sample Survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation in 1981 covering visual, communication and loctomotor disabilities identified 12 million persons having at least one of these disabilities constituting 1.8% of the cstiamtcd total population.

Sample Survey conducted in 1991 by National Sample Survey Organisation covering' Visual, Hearing, Speech and Loctomotor Disabilities estimates 16.15 million people having atleast one of the 4 disabilities constituting 1.9% of the total estimated population of the country.

A Sample Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1991 for Persons with Delayed Mental Development between 1—14 age group, estimates that about 3% of the total population has delayed mental development.

(d) Apart from the existing programmes of immunization, health check-up, referral services, National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme, National Programme for Control of Blindness, National Leprosy Control Programme run by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Nutrition supplement, Awareness Generation etc. under the Deptt. of Women & Child Development, Ministry of HRD. The Welfare Ministry also gives grant-in-aid to Non-Governmental Organisations under the Scheme of Assistance to Organisations for the Disabled to undertake variety of activities including awareness of activities aimed at prevention and early detection of disabilities. Recently the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Fuli Participation) Act, 1995 has also been enacted enjoining upon the appropriate Government to take necessary steps, within the limits of their economic capacities with a view to preventing the occurence of disabilities.